



## Figure Out Place Names for Swedish Genealogy

By Geoffrey Fröberg Morris AG®

As you follow your ancestors and their families in the Swedish records, you will see many place names. You will find place names in:

- The “moved from” column in a household exam or moving-in record. The column heading might be: Flyttat från, Inflyttad, Ankom, or Hvarifrån (moved in, arrived, or where from.)
- The “moved to” column in a household exam or moving-out record. The column heading might be: Flyttat till, Utflyttad, Avgått, or Hvarthän (moved to, moved, or where hence.)
- A birth record, indicating where the parents lived at the time of the birth
- A marriage record, indicating where the groom and bride were residing before the marriage
- A death record, showing where the person lived at the time of death

Sometimes it’s difficult to know where the place is because:

- The place name is not written clearly
- The place name has been abbreviated
- The place is an unfamiliar house, farm or village in the same parish
- The place is an unfamiliar house, farm or village in another parish
- It’s a little place which doesn’t appear on the household record place index
- The place is far away from the parish you have been working in
- The spelling of the place has evolved
- The word is not a place, it refers to a page, volume, or section of a book

### Figure Out the Place Name

When you see a place name (or what looks like a place name) written in a record, you should ask yourself a few questions to figure it out. Here are some questions to help:

Question	Example
1. Is it the name of a parish?	Viksjö, Lungsund, Björlanda, or Odensvi

2. Could it be an abbreviated parish name?	V. (in Viksjö), B.landa (Björlanda), Osvi (Odensvi)																				
3. Is this a spelling variation for a place name?	Färnebo = Fernebo, Bellerup = Bjällerup, Reslöv = Reslöv																				
4. Is the place name also known as something else?	Säfsnäs = Säfsen, Maglarp = Maglerup, Mälby = Norra Mellby																				
5. Did the place name evolve?	Pre-1885 Vedum (in Laske härad), Post-1885 Laske-Vedum																				
6. Is it a farm, village, rote (area), estate, or town? If so what parish is it in?	Ballarp, Edsholm, Kyrkhult, Motorp, Solberg, Tuna, Västanå																				
7. Is it the name of a city? Larger cities have multiple (or many) parishes in them.	City: Stockholm, Göteborg, Norrköping, Västerås, Malmö Parish: Katarina, Kristine, St. Olai, Vårfrukyrka, Caroli																				
8. Is it the name of a County, province, or region?	County: Jönköping, Kristianstad, Skaraborg, Uppsala Province: Småland, Skåne, Västergötland, Uppland, Närke Region: Norrland, Bergslagen, Roslagen, Österlen																				
9. It's a cross reference or description (not a place name.)	<table> <tr> <td>Här i Socken</td><td>here in the parish</td></tr> <tr> <td>Denna församling</td><td>this parish</td></tr> <tr> <td>Se nedan, nedanför, infra</td><td>see below</td></tr> <tr> <td>Se ovan, ovanför, supra</td><td>see above</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ditto, Dito</td><td>ditto</td></tr> <tr> <td>in loco</td><td>in (this) place (<b>Latin</b>)</td></tr> <tr> <td>till</td><td>to</td></tr> <tr> <td>återkom</td><td>returned</td></tr> <tr> <td>bortflyttad</td><td>moved away</td></tr> <tr> <td>död, afled</td><td>died, deceased, moved to</td></tr> </table>	Här i Socken	here in the parish	Denna församling	this parish	Se nedan, nedanför, infra	see below	Se ovan, ovanför, supra	see above	Ditto, Dito	ditto	in loco	in (this) place ( <b>Latin</b> )	till	to	återkom	returned	bortflyttad	moved away	död, afled	died, deceased, moved to
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10. Is it an abbreviated cross reference or description?	<table> <tr> <td>F.B. (före bok)</td><td>previous book</td></tr> <tr> <td>G.b. (gamla bok)</td><td>old (previous) book</td></tr> <tr> <td>N.b. (ny bok, nästa bok)</td><td>new book, next book</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ib, ibid, lbm, ibidem</td><td>in the same place (<b>Latin</b>)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bortfl. (bortflyttad)</td><td>moved away</td></tr> <tr> <td>Obest. (obestämd)</td><td>uncertain</td></tr> </table>	F.B. (före bok)	previous book	G.b. (gamla bok)	old (previous) book	N.b. (ny bok, nästa bok)	new book, next book	Ib, ibid, lbm, ibidem	in the same place ( <b>Latin</b> )	Bortfl. (bortflyttad)	moved away	Obest. (obestämd)	uncertain								
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11. Are there numbers?	<p>The numbers might be a:</p> <p>Year (without the century) (18) 67</p> <p>Household number or rote number 5, 52, 110, 214</p> <p>Page number 1 – up to thousands</p> <p>Volume number (another book or volume) II, VII, 2, 5, 9</p> <p>Page and volume combination 2-104, 147-4, 5-450</p>
12. Is there a person's name?	<p>Could be referring to another household in the same parish, or pastorat. For example: to C. J. Friberg (1843 Öja), Carl Kling (1833 Vårsås)</p>

### Pastorat

A pastorat is made up of 1 or more parishes. If the pastorat has 2 or more parishes, one will be the mother parish and the others will be annex parishes. The number of parishes and designation of the mother parish can change in a pastorat through the years. You can find the names of parishes in the same pastorat in:

- a. Arkiv Digital: top of the info box (old viewer) or in the Arkivinfo (new viewer.)
- b. Sveriges Församlingar genom tiderna (see article Sweden Gazetteers in the Family Search Wiki at: [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Sweden:\\_Gazetteers](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Sweden:_Gazetteers))

### Parishes and Cities

- c. Larger towns, and cities often had a Stadsförsamling (city parish), and a Landsförsamling (rural around the city parish.)
- d. The largest cities had multiple or many parishes in the city. They also had territorial parishes (with a physical boundary) and non-territorial parishes (no physical boundary in the city.)

### Tools to Figure Out Place Names

Name	Type	Value
Place indexes in Household Exams	Household Exams	Check the place index of the household records for the parish (mother and annex) and neighboring parishes.
Parish Pages in the FamilySearch Wiki	FamilySearch Wiki (free)	<p>Place names from about the 1840's have been transcribed from household exam place indexes to the parish pages in the FamilySearch wiki.</p> <p>Available at:</p> <p><a href="https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Sweden">https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Sweden</a></p>

Name	Type	Value
Svenska Ortnam	Database on CD	<p>This is a database of about 400,000 place names in Sweden from 1999. It shows the name of the parish, or municipality that the place belonged to in 1999.</p> <p>Purchase CD at:</p> <p><a href="http://webbutik.riksarkivet.se/se/produkter/cd-dvd/">http://webbutik.riksarkivet.se/se/produkter/cd-dvd/</a>  <a href="https://www.arkivdigital.se/produkter/vidareforsaljning">https://www.arkivdigital.se/produkter/vidareforsaljning</a>  <a href="http://rotterbokhandeln.se/category.html/skivor">http://rotterbokhandeln.se/category.html/skivor</a></p>
Geografiskt-Statistiskt Handlexikon Öfver Sverige (Rosenberg)	Database on CD, SVAR (or free scanned copy)	<p>This is a database of about 65,000 place names from about 1883. It shows what parish, district, and county the place was associated to in the 1883.</p> <p>A free scanned copy of the book is available at:  <a href="http://runeberg.org/rosenberg/">http://runeberg.org/rosenberg/</a></p> <p>Purchase CD at:</p> <p><a href="http://webbutik.riksarkivet.se/se/produkter/cd-dvd/">http://webbutik.riksarkivet.se/se/produkter/cd-dvd/</a>  <a href="http://rotterbokhandeln.se/category.html/skivor">http://rotterbokhandeln.se/category.html/skivor</a></p>
Ortnamnsregistret	Database online (free)	<p>Database created by the Swedish government to preserve a record of place names (among others things.)</p> <p>Available at:  <a href="http://www2.sofi.se/SOFIU/topo1951/_cdweb/">http://www2.sofi.se/SOFIU/topo1951/_cdweb/</a></p>
Parish Locator Tool	Online map showing parish locations (free)	<a href="http://www.slaktdata.org/map.php">http://www.slaktdata.org/map.php</a>
County and Parish Maps	Online maps (free)	<p>Get familiar with the names of parishes nearby.</p> <p><a href="http://memmingsforskarna.se/sockenkartor.html">http://memmingsforskarna.se/sockenkartor.html</a></p>